



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Upcoming survey information is contained in this release.  
You can also find it on our site at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/) and  
click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## USDA TO STUDY HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN SHEEP INDUSTRY

Harrisburg, PA – November 10, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at the health, productivity, and health management issues facing U.S. sheep industry in an effort to help further the understanding of potential disease threats.

Conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the *2011 Sheep Study* will be very similar to previous studies on the sheep industry in 1996 and 2001. From January through mid-February, representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey selected sheep operations in 22 states, including Pennsylvania. A total of 184 Pennsylvania farm operations will be contacted for this study.

The *2011 Sheep Study* is an effort to gather health data on America's sheep farms. In order to continue to be highly productive, the U.S. sheep industry relies on this objective, science-based information regarding successful management practices.

Sheep producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operation. The *2011 Sheep Study* will identify production practices and health measures that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

Major objectives for this study include:

- Helping to develop baseline information on health and health management practices
- Determining producer awareness of disease prevalence
- Helping to guide future research and education

As with all NAHMS studies, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and national estimates. This assures that regardless of size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.